

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01227 151900Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----123371 151901Z /46

O P 151802Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7682  
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
USNIT HAVANA PRIORITY 072

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1227

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, PBOR, ET, SO, UNSC  
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL ACTION ON THE HORN

REF: STATE 065221

1. MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSE REACTED  
ENTIRELY NEGATIVELY TO MY BRIEFING MARCH 15 ON DESIRABLE  
ELEMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN OAU OR UNSC ACTION ON HORN OF  
AFRICA. HE SAID EPMG SEES NO NEED FOR SC SESSION, WHICH  
SIMPLY COULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE. THE WAR IS OVER. SIAD BARRE'S  
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FORCES HAVE LEFT ETHIOPIA NOT BECAUSE OF DECISION TO WITH-  
DRAW PER SE, BUT BECAUSE ETHIOPIAN FORCES HAVE PUSHED THEM  
OUT. THAT BEING SO, EPMG WOULD NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE SIAD  
BARRE TO ACHIEVE ANY OF HIS POLITICAL OBJECTIVES THROUGH  
OTHER MEANS. SIAD MUST RENOUNCE ALL CLAIMS TO ETHIOPIAN  
TERRITORY AND ACCEPT ALL INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN HORN  
REGION. OTHERWISE, THERE WOULD BE NO PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE.

2. BERHANE SAID EPMG PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL APRIL FOR OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING IN LAGOS BECAUSE HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS ARE TIED UP UNTIL THEN. EVEN THERE, EPMG WOULD BE NEGOTIATING NOT WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE OF HARARGHE ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF ETHIOPIA (OFFICIAL ETHIOPIAN DESIGNATION OF OGADEN), BUT ON MEANS OF REESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PEACE IN HORN OF AFRICA. EPMG IS DISTURBED BY REPEATED SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER QUARTERS THAT, SINCE SIAD BARRE TOOK DECISION TO WITHDRAW HIS FORCES, ETHIOPIA SHOULD MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS IN RETURN. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT US TAKE NOTE OF FACT THAT PERSUING SUCH ALLEGATIONS WOULD ONLY SERVE TO HARDEN ETHIOPIAN POSITION. THERE WILL BE NO CONCESSIONS.

3. ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, BERHANE SAID EPMG WOULD SOON BE MAKING DIRECT BILATERAL REQUESTS TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO REBUILD WAR-TORN REGION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UN HAS HELPED ETHIOPIA IN PAST TO COMBAT DROUGHT IN TIGRE, BUT HE NOTED THAT SC WAS NOT INVOLVED THEN. HE STRESSED THAT TO DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS IN SC NOW WOULD ONLY GIVE SOMALIA FORUM TO PROPAGATE ITS POLITICAL IDEAS. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, BERHANE SAID EPMG WAS OPPOSED TO TAKING UN ROUTE AT THIS TIME. AS AFTER THOUGHT, HE ADDED THAT WESTERN POWERS HAD FORFEITED THEIR RIGHT TO ACT NOW THAT WAR WAS OVER BY VIRTUE

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OF FACT THAT THEY LOOKED OTHER WAY AT TIME OF SOMALI INVASION.

4. BERHANE CONCLUDED WITH SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CAUTIONARY REMARKS. HE SAID THAT US WAS CAUSING CONCERN IN SOME ETHIOPIAN QUARTERS BY TAKING UP ONE AFTER THE OTHER SUCH SUGGESTIONS AS STATIONING OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, RELATED MEANS OF MONITORING WITHDRAWAL, AND PRESSING TO TAKE NEGOTIATION EFFORTS OUT OF OAU HANDS AND DUMP THEM IN US. EPMG WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY THIRD COUNTRY OBSERVERS ON ITS TERRITORY. HE SAID ETHIOPIAN INTENTIONS NOT TO CROSS OVER INTO SOMALI TERRITORY WERE FIRM. AT SAME TIME, EPMG HAS NOT RENOUNCED RIGHT TO RETALIATE FORCEFULLY, SHOULD SOMALIS FOR ANY REASON LAUNCH RENEWED INCURSIONS INTO ETHIOPIA. ANY STATEMENTS SUGGESTING THAT FUTURE OF HARARGHE REGION BE MATTER FOR DISCUSSION IN EITHER OAU OR UN FORUM WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. BERHANE MADE ABOVE REMARKS IN RELAXED TONE, BUT EVIDENTLY MEANT BUSINESS. HE STRESSED THAT US CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT OAU WAS PROPER BODY IN FIRST INSTANCE TO SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR HORN, BUT THAT OUR PRIMARY CONCERN WAS THAT URGENT ACTION BE TAKEN TO REESTABLISH PEACEFUL CONDITIONS AT

EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MULTILATERAL ACTION ON THE HORN  
**TAGS:** PORG, PBOR, ET, SO, UNSC, OAU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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